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FBIS-BBC RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT

Basic Provisions

A. Principles of Coordination

1. In view of the established cooperation between the Governments of the U.S. and the U.K. in the procurement and exchange of information, and by virtue of the essential similarity in purposes and methods of the FBIS and BBC monitoring operations, these Monitoring Services can provide their respective Governments with worldwide foreign broadcast coverage at disproportionately low cost by conducting mutually complementary operations.

2. The organization of mutually complementary operations requires continuous consultation and cooperation between the Services in respect to the location of monitoring stations, the allocation of monitoring coverage, the standardizing of operational principles and procedures, their communications networks, and all other matters of mutual concern.

3. The official instrument for joint planning between the Services is the FBIS-BBC Monitoring Services Coordination Committee, of which the Head, BBC Monitoring Service, and the Chief, FBIS, are permanent members. The decisions of the Committee are implemented by executive action on the part of the two permanent members after approval by the Director of the BBC Overseas Service and the Director of Central Intelligence. The two permanent members of the Committee undertake to secure any support from other agencies of their respective Governments required in the execution of the Committee's program. Operational coordination is maintained by the mutual exchange of liaison staffs between the Services.

B. Implementing Provisions

1. FBIS, with the agreement of the British Government,¹ has constructed and is operating a monitoring station near Kyrenia, Cyprus.

a. The Kyrenia station primarily monitors such broadcasts from the USSR, the Near East, and Southeast Europe as are not monitorable by the BBC at Caversham.

b. The BBC stations a liaison staff with the Kyrenia operation for purposes of coordination. The BBC assists FBIS in the recruitment and training of linguist personnel for Kyrenia, and the two Services cooperate in the development of reference materials and other operational aids.

c. The BBC furnishes a teletype channel for filing the Kyrenia product from Cyprus to London, where it is made available to

1. Letter 30 October 1947 from Sir Orme Sargent to the American Ambassador, P.871/34/950.

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representatives of both Services. Channel time on the reverse of this circuit is provided for FBIS administrative or operational messages to Kyrenia.

2. At the BBC Monitoring Service headquarters at Caversham, which monitors the bulk of European broadcasts, FBIS stations a staff of editorial and communications personnel which selects from the output of BBC monitors the material required by FBIS and transmits it over U.S. teletype facilities to Washington. The Chief of the FBIS staff at Caversham acts as principal liaison in the standardization of procedures.

3. From the product of the FBIS continental U.S. and Far Eastern monitoring stations, which cover broadcasts from Latin America and the Far East, FBIS editors select material answering BBC requirements and transmit it over U.S. teletype facilities to London. In this selection they are guided by written lists of requirements and by BBC liaison officers stationed as expedient at FBIS headquarters or field stations. Administrative messages between BBC liaison officers and BBC headquarters are carried by U.S. teletype facilities.

4. Technical data, information on effective and anticipated coverage, and the basic products of monitored material are exchanged between the two Services.

5. The two Services consult and act for mutual protection in regard to the transmission and dissemination of monitored material which is subject to security considerations or to adverse legal action. Compilations of regional intercepts bearing on USSR war potential are not disseminated under a classification lower than "Confidential."

C. Conditions of Arrangement

1. Any or all of the cooperative arrangements herein described may be terminated upon 90 days' notice on the part of either Service.

2. The commitments of both Services are contingent upon the allocation of adequate funds by the respective Governments.

3. Commitments involving the support of other agencies—in particular communications commitments—are contingent upon a continuation of that support.

4. The arrangements herein described refer only to overt monitoring of radio voice broadcasts and press agency transmissions to some all destinations and to the basic products of such monitoring.

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